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## BOOK REVIEWS.

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THE AMERICAN STATE REPORTS, containing the cases of general value and authority, subsequent to those contained in the "American Decisions" and the "American Reports," decided in the courts of last resort of the several states, selected, reported, and annotated, by A. C. Freeman. Volumes 126-135. San Francisco: Bancroft-Whitney Company, Law Publishers and Booksellers, 1909-11.

We have frequently mentioned this excellent series in these pages. But since the last mention the volumes above mentioned have appeared. The reviewer of such a set has no easy task on his hands. In the first place, every reader who has had any considerable experience in the use of law-books already knows the superior merits of this series quite as well as the reviewer, and very likely has the set in his case at easy reach from his desk. To say that this is the only series containing the choice cases of American Jurisprudence from the time of the settlement of America to the present time, is to say what everyone knows. To start a catalogue of the contents and general merits of the set would be to start what could not be finished. To point out the most important features is to repeat former reviews. Nothing is left to say but to comment on the current volumes. These seem to maintain the high standard set by their predecessors. The editor does not include any case in this series till it has appeared in the official series, but goes through all volumes of the state reports as they appear, page by page, and selects such of the cases as in the opinion of the editor are of commanding importance. It is believed that one thing that has contributed in no small degree to the success of this great work is the fact that the preparation of the first volume was intrusted to a lawyer and writer of very wide experience, and that every volume that has been brought out in the many years since then has come through the hands of this same man, thus giving a uniformity and continuity to the work, with the opportunity to profit by experience without losing by lack of knowledge of what had gone before. The chief fault of most of the smaller sets lies in the fact that they are a mere lumber pile, the contents of which can be ascertained only by sorting it over page by page. But this set is so tied together by a system of annotation and cross-reference that as soon as a start is made, one case leads to another on the same point, till the whole field is covered if the reader continues his reading. There is one feature of the late volumes which the editor expressly notifies us is now being emphasized. In volume 135 at page 795, he says: "In recent monographic notes, we have been at some pains to point out what we may call popular legal fallacies, and the subject of this note falls readily into the category." As illustrating the same point we quote the following from page 330, which is the introduction of a long note expounding the proposition. "Conveyances in fraud of creditors are frequently declared to be void, both in the opinions of courts and in the enactment of legislatures. But here, as in many other instances, judges and legislatures use the term 'void' without thought of its real significance. A conveyance in fraud of the grantor's creditors is not void. Even against his creditors it is merely voidable."

It is believed that if the lawyer wants a set of selected cases beyond the decisions of his own state, to cover the whole field of the law, nothing equals this work.

J. R. R.